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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER				
CHERIYAN JR, THOMAS K				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3714				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/590,622

Applicant(s)

IRWIN ET AL.

Examiner

THOMAS K. CHERIYAN JR

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4 and 12 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/CIS)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/14/2006

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the disclosed invention is inoperative and therefore lacks utility. Applicant claims "a game card having a substrate including data specifying one of said winning amounts" is inoperative. It is not enough just to state that a substrate can contain information unless a substrate is a type of memory but in this case, the context of "substrate" is used to define that a substrate a type of material. The specification also does not mention using a "substrate" as memory. Therefore, claim 19 is rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious by Yamada et al (**US 2002/0193157 A1**) in view of Behm et al (**US 6379742 B1**).

Regarding claim 1, Behm discloses a game apparatus comprising:

an electronic game device including a computer (**Yamada, Abstract and Figure 1, game device 2**), a display operatively connected to said computer (**Yamada, Figure 1, Display 1**), a game card interface operatively connected to said computer (**Yamada, Figure 8. It should be noted that a game card and a ticket is equivalent.**), and at least one game programmed in said computer wherein said game has a plurality of selectable, predetermined outcomes (**Obvious since a game is already programmed on this machine, it would be obvious to anyone skilled in the art of gaming to program a game with a predetermined outcome such as lottery card game which is well known in the art**); and

a game card including game information (**Yamada, Figure 2 shows a game card with game information**) specifying one of said predetermined game outcomes (**Lottery game cards inherently have a predetermined game card and is well known in the art**) adapted for connection with said interface wherein connection of said

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game card to said interface (**Yamada, Figure 1, interface 8 shows a game card being interfaced with a game card reader**) permits a player to initiate play of said game with the predetermined outcome of said specified one of said predetermined outcomes being displayed on said display (**Obvious**),

wherein said game information on said game card is contained in printed conductive elements .

Yamada does not teach said game card is contained in printed conductive elements but Behm does (**Behm, Abstract and Summary of Invention**)

The motivation for combining the teachings of Behm with Yamada is because both devices incorporate a game card in conjunction with a game card reader and display. The game card reader taught by Yamada does not teach explicitly reading the game card through conductive means however, Behm does. Both are game cards used for gaming purposes and it would be obvious to incorporate the lottery game card used by Behm into the system by Yamada. It should be noted that Behm teaches other methods for reading a game card such as using a bar code reader which could also be incorporated into the game card reader taught by Yamada.

Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time of the invention to anyone skilled in the art of gaming to combine the teachings of Yamada with Behm to create a game card reader that can read a game card through conductive means because it would be more accurate and secure and prevent people from simply just making a photocopy of a game card.

Regarding claim 2, Yamada and Behm disclose said predetermined outcomes are prize amounts **(Obvious since it is well known that lottery game cards have predetermined prize amounts.)**.

Regarding claim 3, Yamada and Behm disclose said game is an instant lottery game **(Obvious since it is well known that lottery card games are well known to be instant lottery card games.)**.

Claim 4 cancelled by applicant.

Regarding claim 5, Yamada and Behm disclose said computer is effective to determine said specified predetermined game outcome from the electronic signatures of at least a portion of said conductive elements **(It should be noted that an “electronic signature” is just information, whatever information that may be. It would be obvious with Yamada in view of Behm that the game card would transmit information through its conductive elements to determine the predetermined game outcome.)**.

Regarding claims 6, 18, Yamada and Behm disclose said computer is programmed with a plurality of said games and said information includes the identification of a specified one of said games **(It would be obvious that any computer can be programmed with a plurality of games.)**.

Regarding claim 7, Yamada and Behm disclose said information is printed on said card in conductive ink **(Behm, Abstract and Summary of Invention)**.

Regarding claim 8, Yamada and Behm disclose said specified one of said predetermined outcomes is represented by one or more impedances printed in said

conductive ink and said computer is effective to determine the electronic signature of said impedances when said game card is connected to said interface **(The electronic signature obviously contains game information of the predetermined outcome of the lottery game card and would be able to communicate this information to the computer through the game card interface as shown in Behm or Yamada.)**.

Regarding claim 9, Yamada and Behm disclose said electronic signatures are a measure of the resistance of said impedances **(An obvious property of the resistance of said impedances.)**.

Regarding claims 10, 14, 20, Yamada and Behm disclose said card additionally includes a barcode including data functionally related to said information **(Behm, Figure 1 and 2 shows a game card with barcodes.)**.

Regarding claim 11, Yamada and Behm disclose a lottery game apparatus comprising:

a plurality of electronic game devices each including a computer **(Yamada, Abstract and Figure 1, game device 2)**, a display operatively connected to said computer **(Yamada, Figure 1, Display 1)**, a game card interface operatively connected to said computer **(Yamada, Figure 8. It should be noted that a game card and a ticket is equivalent)**, and wherein each of said devices includes a game programmed in said computer wherein said game has a plurality of selectable, predetermined outcomes **(Obvious since a game is already programmed on this machine, it would be obvious to anyone skilled in the art of gaming to program a game with a predetermined outcome such as lottery card game which is well known in the art)**;

a set of game cards wherein each of said cards in said set includes data representing a selected one of said game outcomes (**Yamada, Figure 2 shows a game card with game information and Figure 1 shows a set of game cards**) and wherein different ones of said cards in said set have different ones of said data representing different ones of said outcomes (**Yamada, Figure 2. It would be obvious that each game card would have different game data**), said data is printed in the form of circuit elements on said cards in conductive ink (**Behm, Abstract and Summary of Invention**); and

wherein said cards are adapted for connection with said interface (**Yamada, Figure 1, interface 6**) thereby permitting a player to initiate play of said game on said device resulting in said computer generating the selected one of said predetermined outcomes represented by said data on said card connected to said interface and wherein said one of said outcomes is displayed on said display (**Obvious**).

Claim 12 cancelled.

Regarding claim 13, Yamada and Behm disclose said computer applies power to said circuit elements through said interface and determines said data from the electrical signatures of said circuit elements (**It would be obvious that the computer shown in Figure 1 of Yamada has a power supply which the computer in turn powers the interface through the cable attached to the to computer.**).

Regarding claim 15, Yamada and Behm disclose said interface is configured to permit a player to insert said cards into said device and to make an electrical connection between said data and said computer (**The interface as taught by Yamada obviously**

is configured to permit a player to insert said cards into the device to make an electrical connection between said data and said computer.).

Regarding claim 16, Yamada and Behm disclose said device includes a switch operatively connected to said computer and aligned with a predetermined position on said cards wherein said switch is effective to permit a player to play said game **(It would be obvious that a computer has a switch to allow the player to play a game).**

Regarding claim 17, Yamada and Behm disclose said cards include a scratch-off coating applied over at least a portion of said conductive elements wherein removal of said scratch-off coating by a player alters said conductive elements **(Obvious that all instant lottery card games have a scratch off coating applied. If the coating is conductive, then it would be obvious that the player would have altered the conductive elements.).**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas K. Cheriyan whose telephone number is 571-270-3225. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7:30AM-5:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Pezzuto can be reached on 571-272-6996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Robert E Pezzuto/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3714